

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A biological process for the synthesis of shape, size and polymorph controlled oxide nanoparticles, which process comprises incubating a wet fungus or fungal extract with an aqueous metal salt solution to obtain a biomass, separating the biomass and filtering the oxide nanoparticles from the biomass.
2. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the incubation of the wet fungus or fungal extract with the metal salt solution is carried out at a temperature ranging from 15 °C to 40 °C and for a period of 1 to 3 days.
3. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biomass is filtered using a filter having a pore size of at least 1 micron to obtain the oxide nanoparticles.
4. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of chlorides, nitrates, oxalates and sulfates.
5. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus is ~~used~~ in whole cell form[[,]] or is a wet solid mass ~~or fungal extract~~.
6. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the temperature for incubation ranges from 23 °C - to 33 °C.
7. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the temperature for incubation ranges from 25 °C - to 29 °C.
8. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the concentration of the metal salt solution is not less than 1 mM.

9. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus or fungal extract is used in an amount of from 10 to 60 mgs.
10. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium sp.*, *Trichothecium sp.*, *Verticillium sp.*, *Chloridium sp.*, *Aspergillus sp.*, *Cephalophora sp.*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Helicostylum sp.*
11. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal salt comprises a transition metal.
12. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Si and Zn.